

Apostolic Visitation

OF INSTITUTES OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE UNITED STATES

July 28, 2009

Dear Sister,

On behalf of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life I am happy to offer you the *Instrumentum Laboris*, the working document for the Apostolic Visitation of Institutes of Women Religious in the United States. I hope you will find it a helpful instrument for understanding and participating in the process of the Apostolic Visitation.

The *Instrumentum Laboris* consists of two parts, followed by four appendices:

- **Part A: Introduction** describes the nature and purpose of the Apostolic Visitation, the four phases of the process and principal reference documents of the Holy See which treat religious life.
- **Part B: Reflection Topics for the Apostolic Visitation** offers questions which all members of apostolic religious institutes are invited to **consider** in preparation for **Phase 2** of the Apostolic Visitation.
- **Appendix A** is a copy of the Decree of Cardinal Rodé nominating the Apostolic Visitor.
- **Appendix B** is a brief glossary of terms related to the Apostolic Visitation.
- **Appendix C** lists the criteria for the selection of Visitation Team members.
- **Appendix D** lists documents of the Holy See as resources for the Apostolic Visitation.

Although this *Instrumentum Laboris* is being distributed directly to you, the major superiors of the institutes in the United States, success of the Visitation itself will depend on the active participation of all women religious in our country. For this reason, I am asking each of you to make this enclosed document directly available to every sister of your institute. Please encourage them, in particular, to reflect prayerfully and engage in conversation together on the questions included in Part B of this working document. Pertinent references to Church documents are included so that your reflection and sharing may take place in the appropriate ecclesial context. The *Instrumentum Laboris* will soon be posted on our website www.apostolicvisitation.org for easier distribution to those sisters who have access to and also may prefer this means of communication.

The **Phase 2 Questionnaire** is currently being prepared and will be sent early this fall to all major superiors of apostolic religious institutes in the United States. If you would like to update contact information or have not already submitted an email address to our office, I ask you to kindly notify us at info@apostolicvisitation.org to facilitate future communications with you.

Once again, I thank you for your cooperation in this endeavor to strengthen, enhance and support the growth of our religious institutes in service of the Church.

Sincerely in the Heart of Christ,



Mother M. Clare Millea, ASCJ
Superior General, Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Apostolic Visitor